FESSENDEN'S

SILK MANUAL

AND

PRACTICAL FARMER.

Devoted to the Culture of Silk, Agriculture, and Rural Economy.

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BOSTON, JUNE, 1835.

CHANGE OF TITLE.

Our readers will perceive that we have made a slight alteration in the head of our paper, by transposing the principal words in the title. We have had a great accession of respectable names to our subscription list, and four fifths take it for the information which they anticipate receiving from the paper relative to *Silk Culture*. We, therefore, at the suggestion of some friends, and to meet the views of much the largest class of our readers, have concluded to publish this paper in future with the appellation, FESSENDEN'S SILK MANUAL, AND PRACTICAL FARMER, &c., and under this name, we shall, in future, fill our cheap compendium with as much useful information as we can comprise within the compass of its pages.

MASSACHUSETTS SILK COMPANY.—There has recently been formed, a Company for the Manufacture of Silk, with the above title. We understand it is their intention to establish a large plantation of Mulberry Trees, and carry on the whole business from the growing of the tree to the manufactured fabrics. We hail this as a good beginning of a business, which it is our opinion, will eventually be equal in importance to the country, to the culture and manufacture of Cotton.

FACTS AND OBSERVATIONS RELATIVE TO THE CULTURE OF SILK.

VARIETIES OF SILKWORMS.—In our last we made some remarks relative to the best and most profitable food for Silk Worms. We will now speak of the *varieties* of these insects, a consideration of scarcely less importance than that of the provision necessary for their support. If the Farmer finds his account in rearing no animals which are not of a good *breed* as well as good samples of their kind, the Silk Culturist will no doubt, be well rewarded by his attention to the different varieties and selection of the best races of the insects on whose labors and qualities all his hopes of success must be founded.

The Hon. Richard Rush, while Secretary of the Treasury, prepared and transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, a letter on the growth and Manufacture of Silk, &c. which is a very valuable, as well as able and elaborate document. In this the writer treats

OF SMALL WORMS OF THREE CASTS, OR MOULTINGS.

The eggs of these worms may be found in several parts of Lombardy. The worms and cocoons are two-fifths smaller than the common sort. The worms consume, to form a pound of cocoons, nearly as much leaves as the large species; and, although smaller, when they have reached their full growth, they devour more fragments and shoots of leaves than the common sort. Their cocoons are composed of finer and more beautiful silk than the common cocoon; they are also better constructed, and to this is owing the

greater quantity of silk, which at equal weights, is drawn from those cocoons, than from common cocoons. This variety, in the opinion of Dandalo, [an experienced silk culturist] should be infinitely more cultivated than it hitherto has been; for

1. These silk worms require four days less of care than the common silk worms.

2. They afford a saving of time, labor and money.

3. They are not so much exposed to accidents, their life being shorter.

Some imagine the species to be delicate, but they appeared to Dandolo to be strong and vigorous. Six hundred cocoons weigh a pound and a half.

OF THE WORMS THAT PRODUCE WHITE SILK.

"I have raised," says Dandolo, "a large quantity of these, and found them, in all respects, equal to the common silk worms of four casts. If I reared silk worms for the purpose of spinning the silk myself, I would cultivate only the silk worm of three casts, and those that produce white silk, as preferable to all others; and every year would choose the very whitest cocoons, to prevent the degeneration of the species."

This species, says Mr Rush, was introduced into France about fortyfive years since, from China, but was not much cultivated until about seventeen years past. It is now highly prized by the manufacturers.

In Windham county, Connecticut, there is also a small, pale, white worm, which eats but twenty days, and produces fine white silk, though in less quantity than either the common large pale white, or the dark colored worm: but it has the good quality of retaining its clean white color, and does not turn yellow by washing, or by exposure to the sun and air. These worms produce also two crops. It is highly probable that these white worms are of the same species as that last mentioned.

The dark drab colored worms, which are very common in the Unit ed States, and called "black," live longer, and make more silk than the large white worms.

SILKWORMS OF EIGHT CROPS.

At the silk establishment of the British East India Company at Jungepore, Bengal, Lord Valencia, besides the common annual silk worm which gave but one crop, found two others; the one commonly reared, and supposed indigenous, is called Dacey, producing eight harvests. Another and worst, the China, or Madrasia, also yields eight times a year. This last may be the kind mentioned by Arthur Young, who says, he "obtained a silk worm from China, which he reared, and in twentyfive days had the cocoons in his basins, and by the twentyninth or thirtyfirst days, a new progeny feeding in his trays." He justly remarks, that "they would be a mine to whoever would cultivate them." The American who would introduce any of the best of these silk worms into the United States would render an essential service to his country. If circumstances, however, should prevent the importation of the species before mentioned, it is presumed there will be no difficulty in procuring, from the Isle of France, the eggs of those which came from Bengal in the year 1815, and were reared under the direction of M. Chazel, and which breed three times a year; or the variety of Madrass, which, according to Dr Anderson, finish their course in forty days, viz: six days in eggs, twentytwo a worm, eleven in the cocoon, and one a moth.

[To be continued.]

[From the New England Farmer.]

SILK COMPANIES.

The Editor of the Cultivator, I think, wrongly estimates the effects of associations for carrying on the silk business. He says, "We are afraid that large establishments with corporate powers, will tend rather to retard than to encourage this branch of rural labor, except in their immediate neighborhood, where it can be made subservient to their cupidity."

These remarks might be applicable to some branches of business, but are dangerous and discouraging to the success of the silk manufacture in this country. I believe that "associated capitalists" cannot invest their money to better account, for the benefit of the community than to erect manufactories of silk, and establish plantations of mulberry trees in order to supply those manufactories. The branches of domestic industry, which are preparatory and indispensable to the successful prosecution of the concerns of large silk manufactories, will give support to thousands of children, infirm persons, &c., who would otherwise be without employment. The field is large enough for individuals to labor in without interfering with, or being incommoded by those who work in companies. There

cannot, for a century, be such competition as to reduce the price or lessen the demand for silk. On the contrary large establishments will encourage and reward those who do no more than furnish mulberry leaves for silk worms, or cocoons fit for reeling, &c. which may be done in the family of every farmer. In our humble opinion Congress cannot apply money to better purpose than by granting a bounty upon every 100 pounds of silk reeled in the United States. I am particularly opposed to such companies as would have a tendency to introduce monopolies, or discourage or destroy individual industry or enterprise, but say "go ahead" to those men of wealth and enterprise, who unite their talents and influence, and raise a joint fund for the purpose of creating such a great staple commodity as may be done by establishing, and rendering common in the United States, the silk business in all its branches.

PUBLIC GOOD.

By the Editor.

We are and hope always shall be on the side of "PUBLIC GOOD." There is a great advantage in the *union* as well as in the *division of labor*, and both of these may be best introduced in large manufactories, where money and mind can be brought to bear on the same objects. The following remarks of Dr Johnson are good authority as well as good sense.

"Boyle has observed, that the excellency of manufactures, and the facility of labor would be much promoted if the various expedients and contrivances which lie concealed in private hands, were by reciprocal communications made generally known; for there are few operations that are not performed by one or other with some peculiar advantages, which though singly of little importance, would by conjunction and concurrence open new inlets to knowledge, and give new powers to diligence."

These "expedients and contrivances" for giving "new powers to diligence," would surely be more apt to be developed as well as more easily made generally known, and the inventors would have a better chance to be rewarded for their ingenuity in large manufactories, than where solitary workmen were laboring in seclusion. Some of the labors preparatory to the manufacture of silk require little capital and less skill; such as propagating the mulberry, gathering the leaves, raising and feeding the worms, &c. These can be performed in every family, and by every individual who has hands, eyes, and is capable of moderate locomotion. The higher branches of the art require accomplished artizans and that union of capital and intellect which is most likely to be found in associated companies. But, without such companies the individuals adverted to would find less encouragement, because they could not produce the perfected articles of the first class, or at least could not afford them at the common market price.

We do not see how any objection can be raised against silk societies, which will not as well apply to agricultural societies, or any other societies in which improvement is the object. The cotton planter might as rationally oppose cotton factories, as the farmer object to silk factories, for which he does or may furnish materials to be wrought upon. In both cases, to use a homely but expressive phrase, the opponents to factories "*quarrel with their own bread and butter.*"

[For the New England Farmer,]

THE SEASON.

Vegetation has come forward in the course of the last week with unexampled rapidity. Trees were in their fullest bloom on Friday the 29th ult., and on Wednesday succeeding the fruit was visible,—Cherries, Gooseberries, and Currants are quite forward, the grass has come forward promising well, but should judge not so well as on an average for the last seven or eight years: our pastures are very backward as all will be able to discover by the high price given for poor butter; we must have patience for one week longer before we can have it in perfection, as the season has left the pastures, if nothing else, ten days in arrears. Seeds have come up remarkably well and quick (I only speak of such as I had from the New England Seed Store), and if the warm weather continues the Farmer s work will press heavily upon him for a while.

June 4th, 1835. F.

NEW YORK AMERICAN SILK SOCIETY—A society, having for its object the introduction and extension throughout the country of the knowledge and practice of cultivating and raising mulberry trees, of feeding and managing silk worms and reeling silk from cocoons in the most approved method.

The importance of this knowledge will appear from the fact that the nett profit of land devoted to the culture of Silk, is double, if not triple, to that derived from any other crop which can be put upon it, it is also a fact, that every moderate farmer can raise several hundred dollars worth of silk, without interfering with his ordinary agricultural operations. But in order to avail himself of this facility to obtain competency and wealth, which our soil and climate have given him, he must possess himself of information on the subject—for without it his attempts will be fruitless. It is, therefore, the object of the Committee to diffuse this information as extensively as possible.

This Society was formed in this city on the 15th of May, 1835.—*Long Island Star.*

HUGE DANDELION.—Mr G. Pierce exhibited in the Boston Market, Stall No. 90, a Dandelion, which weighed 4¾ pounds.

SILK CULTURE.

Much allowance is to be made for the coloring given by enthusiastic men, warmly engaged in a new and untried pursuit; but after all deduction, *facts* enough have been presented to show conclusively that the silk business is capable of being made exceedingly profitable. And perhaps the most important fact of all is, that the culture has not only maintained its ground, but has been advancing in Connecticut for many years, and that under every disadvantage of imperfect machinery and want of capital, it has brought a far greater amount of money into a small town possessing no great natural advantages, than was ever realized for any one article of produce, from a similar extent of the most fertile bottom lands on the Connecticut. This culture seems likely too, to thrive more particularly in New England, inasmucha s its success depends more on the industry of the population than on the fertility of the territory. In all kinds of produce which can be raised by slave labor, the southern and western planters will always compete with us successfully. Worcester county, the finest agricultural county in New England, cannot profitably raise bread stuffs enough for its use; many thousand bushels of Southern corn are annually imported and consumed there. The cattle of Franklin county are sometimes competed with in Brighton market, by droves which have been pastured on the parks of Kentucky or the prairies of Illinois. It is "the industry of freedom" only, which has enabled New England to maintain her ground against the advantages presented by the superior soil of some parts of the Union, and the cheaper labor of other parts. Every new occupation which free labor can make profitable, and which is safe from the competition of slave labor, is a thousand times more consequence than the discovery of the richest gold mine would be.—*Franklin Mercury.*

American Silk.—The Philadelphia Herald speaks of Mr Upton, of that city as having been for eighteen years engaged in silk manufacture. There is a gentleman in this vicinity, (Mr Cobb of Dedham,) who, for a shorter period has perhaps been working as effectually as any other person in the way of experiment. He began the cultivation of the mulberry tree in 1826; and since that time, notwithstanding the nature of the soil, which is not the most favorable, has extended his operations so much so as to be now in the habit of bringing to the Boston market American silk, manufactured, to the amount of about a hundred dollars a week, the year round. Recently he has introduced the great improvement of raising his trees from *slips*, by which he gains two years in the growth. Those planted by him the last spring we understand, have grown over four feet already. The mulberry, in this particular excels all other trees.—*Bost. Mer. Jour.*

FERTILIZING PROPERTIES OF LIME.

A writer for the Genesee Farmer, with the signature "*Hakham*" gives the following remarks.

When the writer of this article went, in the days of his boyhood, to reside in one of the southern counties of Pennsylvania, the land upon which he lived had been purchased at the common price in the neighborhood, £4 Pennsylvania currency, per acre. A short distance to the northwest lay the great limestone valley, that extends, with some abrupt terminations, from New York to Virginia. The serpentine ridge which bounds this valley on the south-east, was considered by the inhabitants as the limits of the grain country; and although the land adjoining it south-eastward was a good sandy loam, it was thought that it would produce nothing but grass, and the land in the valley was then estimated at an average price of £15, or $40 per acre. In a few years, however, the farmers began to haul lime from the valley, and make liberal applications of it on the land south of the ridge. They have continued this process with increasing industry for forty years, with increasing success, and the consequence has been that the valley, which was thought abundantly calcareous without the application of lime, has remained stationary in value, with some fluctuations during the late war, while the land upon which lime has been liberally applied, has advanced from £4 to 80 and $100 per acre, and from the abundance of its crops fully justifies the purchaser.

TO DESTROY TICKS ON SHEEP.

Friend Tucker—I have been a constant reader of thy valuable paper for more than two years, during which time I have noticed several communications on the best method of destroying ticks on sheep, none of which seem to me so well adapted to the end designed as that which an experience of sixty years in farming, has led me to adopt, and which is now submitted to the public with much diffidence. I have had for several years a flock of sheep about one hundred in number, composed of the Merino and Bakewell breeds, and when purchased by me the former were much afflicted by "the scab," and all by ticks—the lambs the most severely. For the destruction of the ticks, I procured between one-half and three fourths of a bushel of stems or refuse tobacco, which I boiled, and when the strength was sufficiently extracted, the liquor was put into a half hogshead tub, as being the most suitable for the operation intended—to this was added water till the tub was nearly full. After the sheep were sheared, they were taken and immersed in this decoction, a board being placed across the tub in

the meantime for the purpose of draining them on, thereby saving the liquor, which would otherwise be soon exhausted. In this operation the head of the sheep is to be exempt from immersion, and to be properly done three persons are necessary, one to manage the head and the others the feet. The lambs should undergo the same process, the decoction being previously diluted with water, and a little more care should be taken in draining them. A second operation will be necessary in about ten days after the first—this is indispensable to effect the object intended. The intervening time between the first and second immersion is necessary for the eggs of the old ones to hatch, and this young colony once destroyed, the cure is complete. It may be well to remark, in relation to this process, that its effect in the destruction of "the scab," was equally as salutary and decisive in the case of the ticks. If the foregoing remarks are deemed worthy of a place in the columns of the Farmer, insert them and oblige

A Pennsylvania Farmer.

Wood Lawn, 3d. mo. 12, 1835.

FENCE POSTS.

Mr Editor—I have been desirous for some time of addressing, through the medium of your paper my farming brethren on an important subject, viz. *the means of rendering fence posts more durable*, but I have not found suitable leisure till this day, which is by far the most tempestuous known in this region for the last thirty years. In my remarks I shall confine myself to my own experience. During winter when getting up my wood I make a practice of selecting my hemlock logs from ten to fourteen inches in diameter, clear from shakes and pretty straight. These being carefully peeled, I take them to a neigboring sawmill, and have them sawed as follows: first through the centre, and then turned on the side and sawed through twice so as to form six posts from one log. These I stick up under cover during one summer at least, so as to have them thoroughly seasoned. Then some time during the winter, I heat a large kettle of tar and thoroughly smear with it about three feet of the largest end of the post, and then stick them up again ready for use. The tar ought to extend a little above the surface of the ground so as to prevent the moisture as much as possible from penetrating into the post. The reason of preparing them so long before they are wanted for use is to allow the tar to become hard by exposure to the air. When posts are prepared in this way, I am confident from my own experience they last more than twice as long as when set up in the usual way.

Some farmers of my acquaintance set their posts green and with the bark on. In this case, decay commences immediately, the bark acting as a sponge to absorb and retain moisture and in the course of four or five years every high wind knocks down a number of posts which fall so heavily and with so much force as to break or to split the boards, and thus do material damage; and then by not having a supply of posts on hand they are obliged to take their teams (which are wanted for other purposes) into the woods for a new set of this miserable apology for fence posts. Taking all things into consideration (and this farmers ought to do) I think about one half of the expense of supporting a post and board fence is saved by this method.—*National Eagle.*

Waste of Manure.—"But as an example may perhaps bring this before you in a stronger point of view than in any other way I can put it: let me suppose that some of you should purchase a little tea at a grocer's; as long as you keep it dry and shut up from the weather, it will preserve its original strength, even for years; but when you put into a teapot, and pour water on it three or four times, the strength is all gone, and your tea becomes, I may say useless matter. It is just so with your manure. I see it often placed in such situations that the rain water from your house and offices, and the seepage from the higher grounds, all run through it; thus every shower floods it day after day, carrying off always some part of the strength, until at length it is left as dead and as useless as the leaves thrown out of the teapot.

"Surely no man in his senses will persist any longer in such gross management. If you were to observe a man quietly stand by and see his potatoes destroyed, which are to be the chief support of himself and family, you would say he was either mad or a downright idiot; and if this would be your opinion of him, what can you say of yourselves when you stand by and daily look on at the destruction of that manure by which your potatoes are to be produced?"—*Blacker's Essay.*

Coal Trade of Pennsylvania.—The vast increase of this trade, within a few years, renders all authentic details relating to it a subject of general interest: and in proof of this increase, it is only necessary to state, that in the year, 1820, no more than 365 tons of anthracite coal found their way to the market from the Lehigh mines, while in 1834 the quantity sold amounted to 374,222 tons, of which 106,500 were from the Lehigh, 224,242 from the Schuylkill, and 43,700 from the Lackawana mines; the Schuylkill mines having been opened for the market for the first time in the year 1825, and the Lackawana in 1829.

The Lehigh Company employ on the Lehigh

Canal and the Delaware, 275 boats, and others are employed by individuals. On the Morris Canal, there are 250 boats employed in this trade. The number of vessels laden with coal at Philadelphia and Bristol in 1834, was 469. The amount of Lehigh coal shipped coastwise during the same year was 32,154 tons, of which 14,006 tons were shipped from Newark.

The number and description of vessels cleared from the river Schuylkill, laden with coal, during the year 1834, were as follows: 72 brigs, 1122 schooners, and 420 sloops. The amount of tonnage of the boats employed in the transportation of coal from the Lehigh mines, is 22,150 tons; on the Schuylkill, 24,733.

The value of improvements and property connected with and arising from the anthracite coal trade of Pennsylvania in the three great coal fields is estimated by a committee of the Legislature of that State as follows, viz: rail roads and canals made by companies and individuals, including part of the State canals four hundred eigety-nine miles, 9,750,93742; collieries, boats, cars, &c. 1,270,280; capital invested in coal lands, 4,900,000; mining capital, 480,000; value of towns in the coals fields, 3,375,000; making an aggregate of $19,176,217 42; to which may be added the value of storehouses, wharves, landings, &c. in Philadelphia, New York and other places, together with the value of vessels and capital employed in shipping coal.

The bituminous coal lands in Pennsylvania are supposed by the same Committee to comprehend an extent of 21,000 square miles, and the anthracite of 975 square miles. Since the opening of the anthracite coal trade in 1820, its average annual increase has been 33 per cent. The Committee believe that it will continue during the next ten years to increase in the same ratio; in which case, the consumption in 1843 will be 10,510,980 tons, the value of which, at $5 per ton, will be $52,544,450. Supposing the increase not to exceed one half of the above estimate, the trade of that year, in the article of coal alone, will amount in value to twenty-six millions dollars.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

USE OF THE POTATO.

In the December number of the Edinburgh Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, Mr R. McAdam gives an article on the history and uses of the potato. Although this vegetable was known to Europeans soon after the discovery of America, yet, for more than one hundred years, its merits were unknown to the public. Not until about the middle of the 18th century, was it cultivated as a field crop in Great Britain. It has since been rapidly s] reading over the world. Now millions and millions of bushels are annually cultivated. In a comparatively few years, it will be cultivated in other vast and populous portions of the globe; and thus, even the present immense quantity will be many times quadrupled. We make a few extracts on the uses of the tuber.—*N. Y. Farmer.*

Cooking potatoes in various ways.—There is perhaps no species of food that can be consumed in a greater variety of ways, than the potato. Among us, the only modes in use are three or four, such as boiling, roasting, or frying; but our French neighbors, who surpass us, and all the world, in everything relating to cookery, at least so far as infinite variety is concerned, have several other ways of preparing this root. A French gentleman invited to dinner thirtytwo of his friends, promising to each a different dish, and yet all composed of the same material. They assembled, found before each dish a cover, and, upon taking their seats, discovered that each guest had really a different dish, though all formed of eggs! One of the company immediately repeated the invitation to all the persons present for the next day, when he promised to regale them in a similar manner, on another single substance, metamorphosed into thirtytwo different forms. They came and dined very comfortably on thirtytwo distinct and palatable dishes, all composed of potatoes.

Frosted Potatoes.—It is a very remarkable circumstance, that in *frosted* potatoes, it is only the *juice*, or liquid part of the root, that is affected, and not at all the farina or flour which may be equally well extracted, and will be found as white as if it had not been frozen, provided the root is not quite rotted, which in the process of time it will become. The following singular illustration of this took place in 1794: A field of potatoes at Camstradden, Dumbartonshire, was laid under water, by a sudden rise of Lochlomond. A quantity of these was got up, and in part brought home. Being wet, they were laid on the floors of outhouses to dry! but in a few days they were so spoiled as to be unfit for feeding cattle. A heap of the potatoes was left on the ground; when turned over next spring, some starch was found at the bottom, which excited a suspicion, that though the root had been affected by the frost, yet that the flour had remained uninjured. This was found to be the case; and a quantity of the farina was collected from the heap, part of which was distributed in Dumbartonshire, and the remainder was brought to Stirling, in 1804. As arrowroot had become fashionable about that time it was often used as a substitute, and many ate of it without knowing the difference. In 1825, a dish of it was made with milk, and two gentlemen who supped on it declared that they would not have known it from arrow root. A specimen of this same flour of 1794 was sent to Sir John Sinclair in 1826, and it seemed as good as any produced from the potatoes

of that year, after having been kept for above thirty years.

Potato starch in Bread.—It is well known that the manufacture of bread, even when conducted by the most skilful and experienced bakers, is sometimes very difficult. From the various casualties to which wheaten flour has been liable, from disease in the crop, or bad management in the keeping or grinding of the grain, it frequently loses some of its most essential qualities, and causes the bread, in defiance of the baker's art, to contract a sourness, which is both disagreeable to the taste and prejudicial to the health. Fortunately a remedy has been discovered of late years; that of mixing with the flour a small quantity of *potato starch, previously converted into a jelly.* This kind of bread is remarkably light, and keeps longer moist than any other bread. It toasts much better, and makes better bread puddings.

Potato Flour for Children.—Another most important use to which potato flour can be applied is to give it, boiled in milk, in the proportion of *two* spoonfuls of flour to one pint of milk, to young children, brought up by hand, and not at the breast or after they are weaned from the breast.

Potato Starch for Weavers.—Until of late this was entirely made from wheat, and still a great proportion of it is so. But if potato starch were universally adopted for the purpose, as is the case now throughout France, a very great consumption of wheat would be saved. This substance is also put to another use, namely, the making of size, which for some purposes, such as whitewashing, is greatly superior to the common size, as it has no offensive smell, and has a more durable whiteness.

Potato Cheese.—The manufacture of this is carried on in Thuringia and Saxony, and it has the advantage of retaining its freshness for several years, provided it be kept in close vessels. It is prepared by boiling the potatoes, and reducing them, when cold, to a pulp, rejecting skins. Sour milk is added, or else sweet curd with the whey pressed out, in the proportion of a pint to 5 pound of pulp. It is kneaded several times, drained in small baskets, and simply dried in the shade.

Coffee from Potatoes.—A mode has been suggested by a French chemist for converting potatoes into a substance resembling coffee. He mixes some best olive oil with a certain portion of dried potato flour, and then adds a small quantity of coffee powder. He asserts that this will produce a liquor more agreeable than coffee.

Potatoes used for Dyeing and Cleansing.—A chemist in Copenhagen has discovered that the flowers of the plant may be used in dyeing. By this means a beautiful yellow collor may be obtained, which is solid and durable. By plunging the color into blue, it becomes a perfect green. It has likewise been found, that the juice contained in the potato will produce a gray color of great beauty. The liquor drawn off in the process of making starch, will clean silks, woollens, or cottons, without damage to the texture or color. It is also good for cleaning wainscoats.

Potatoes prevent Incrustations in Steam Boilers.—Potatoes are used with excellent effect in the boilers of steam engines, for preventing the gathering of a calcareous incrustation on the bottom, which is gradually deposited from the water employed. The potatoes give out a glutinous substance which entangles the particles in the water, and prevents them from incrusting the iron of the boiler.

Potatoes a cure for the Scurvy.—A medical use of the potato has been lately suggested in a valuable French publication; namely, as a preventive of, and even cure for, the scurvy. Roasted potatoes were administered with perfect success to sailors afflicted with the disorder, after other approved medicines had been given in vain. As *roasted* potatoes are the most effectual, it seems probable that the remedy depends on some of the substances contained in the black liquid which boils out of potatoes, and which is retained in roasting.

Salting Butter.—The quantity of salt for butter that is not to be eaten for several months after salting, should not be less than half an ounce of salt, mixed with two drachms of sugar and two drachms of nitre, to sixteen ounces of butter. The sugar improves the taste, and the nitre gives the butter a better color, while both of them act with the salt in preserving the butter from rancidity. If the salt is not minutely mixed into the butter, that on which it rests will have a yellow or brownish color, while the rest will be of a white color, which, in dairy language is termed "pyety butter," that brings an inferior price. But although the butter has to be kneaded among, and the salt well mixed into it, care must be taken not to bake or knead it too much, otherwise it will become tough and gluey.—*Quar. Journal.*

THINGS A FARMER SHOULD NOT DO.

A farmer should never undertake to cultivate more land than he can do thoroughly; half tilled land is growing poorer—well tilled land is constantly improving.

A farmer should never keep more cattle, horses, sheep, or hogs, than he can keep in good order: an animal in high order the first of December, is already half wintered.

A farmer should never depend on his neighbor for what he can by care and good management, produce on his own farm; he should never beg fruit while he can plant trees, or bor-

row tools while he can make or buy; a high authority has said, the borrower is a servant to the lender.

The farmer should never be so immersed in political matters, as to forget to sow his wheat, dig his potatoes, and bank up his cellar; nor should he be so inattentive to them as to remain ignorant of those great questions of national and state policy which will always agitate more or less, a free people.

A farmer should shun the door of a bank as he would an approach of the plague or cholera; banks are for men of speculation, and theirs is a business with which farmers should have little to do.

A farmer should never be ashamed of his calling; we know that no man can be entirely independent, yet the farmer should remember, that if any one can be said to possess that enviable distinction, he is the man.

No farmer should allow the reproach of neglecting education to lie against himself or family; if knowledge is power, the beginning of it should be early and deeply laid in the district school.

A farmer should never use ardent spirit as a drink; if, while undergoing severe fatigue, and the hard labors of the summer, he would enjoy robust health, let him be temperate in all things.

A farmer should never refuse a fair price for anything he wishes to sell; we have known a man who had several bushels of wheat to dispose of, refuse 8*s*. because he wanted 8*s*. 6*d*. and after keeping his wheat six months, was glad to get 6*s*. 6*d*. for it.

A farmer should never allow his wood-house to be emptied of wood during the summer months; if he does, when winter comes, in addition to cold fingers, he must expect to encounter the chilling looks of his wife, and perhaps be compelled, in a series of lectures, to learn that the man who burns green wood has not mastered the A B C of domestic economy.

A farmer should never allow his window to be filled with red cloaks, tattered coats, and old hats; if he does he will most assuredly acquire the reputation of a man who tarries long at the whiskey, leaving his wife and children to freeze or starve at home.

There are three things of which the man who aims at the character of a prosperous farmer will never be niggardly—manure, tillage, and seed: and there are three things of which he will never be too liberal—promise, time, and credit.

In 1834, asparagus was sent to market from the Salem alms-house on the 16th of April; in 1835, on the 13th of May; the same means used to bring it forward early in both years.—*Salem Register.*

CHINESE MULBERRY.

The first genuine seed of this plant ever had in this country, was obtained by the Secretary of our Agricultural Society, through an American Missionary resident at Canton. It was distributed among individuals here and various experiments have been made and others are now making in this town, to test its adaption to our climate and superiority over the common mulberry for the feeding of silk worms. As the seedling plant is but little known in this country except in this town and its character is exciting much interest with silk growers, we have tried, through Dr Stebbins, to collect such facts about the nature and cultivation of the plants. The Secretary says—

"This seed was probably the first and only true seed ever imported. It was sowed in drills, and where not planted too deep did well; some was sown as late as the month of August and did well. The seed should be planted only about one fourth of an inch in depth. The leaves attained a good size, more than 10 inches by 9, and probably would have grown to a greater size, had not the leaves been killed by the early severe frost, which destroyed many other of a much firmer wood; the roots have, however, been well preserved and will answer well for trasplanting this spring—those who have made engagements for them will be supplied, and can have more if wanted and applied for soon."

There is one distinctive peculiarity between the leaves of the seedling Chinese Mulberry of the last year and the leaves of plants or trees which have been long in the country, propagated from cuttings or layers, while the leaves of the latter are pendulous, having the appearance of debility—the former from the seed give out a leaf of stout texture, of equal size, without any appearance of debility, equally soft, silky, and as congenial to the constitution of the worm. For feeding worms one pound of the Chinese mulberry is said to be equal to nearly double that quantity of white mulberry, probably because *young worms* will not or cannot eat the fibres and stems of the white mulberry, while of the Chinese leaf the worms eat stem and all, a great saving in feed. It is agreed among horticulturists, and a fact acknowledged by nursery men, that trees propagated by cuttings or shoots, are not as long-lived as those from seed. This circumstance is highly favorable to the culture of the Chinese seedling.

Although the climate of New England may be congenial to the growth and culture of the Chinese mulberry, and that trees have withstood the severity of several winters, even in open and exposed situations, because these trees have not been disturbed by frequent hoeing about the roots, in the extensive cultivation of the Chinese mulberry, it may be prudent to accelerate the growth in the

early part of the season, by frequent hoeing and stirring the earth about the plant—and by or before the middle of the month of August, it will be necessary wholly to omit stirring the earth about the roots, to impede the growth of the tree. To use the leaves for feeding worms, or for drying in a shade with a sprinkling of salt and packed away for early use the next spring. By this method the tree may acquire a more firm texture or wood. On light soil the plant will soonest cease to grow, therefore our poor light land will best answer for the propagation of the Chinese mulberry, and on such land be more likely to acquire firm wood and the capability of withstanding the severity of northern winters. But as the plant may be multiplied by cuttings or layers, to a great extent, should any person fear the severity of winter, the plants may be easily secured by laying down the plant and covering with earth, or by drawing up the earth a few inches above where the sprouts start from the foot stalk—or by taking up the roots and setting out in a cellar or out house. These several methods have been adopted with success, and have preserved the roots in a healthy condition ; but the tender plants which were left in the field without any protection have suffered severely, especially in consequence of the early frost, which proved the death not only of the Chinese mulberry stock, but also some of our most hardy trees. The free circulation of the sap being thus impeded, and retained in the body of the tree, until the winter frost set in, froze the sap and in many instances opened large crevices in the bark and wood of the grape, peach, cherry and perhaps some other trees, some of which are apparently dead above the openings, and no plant in its green state, could withstand such attacks without some protection—where this has been attended to, the roots appear healthy. In setting out this spring, if the stalks of the seedling had not been killed the cultivator would have cut away the stalk to about one or two inches above the root before transplanting, that vigorous shoots should put forth from the root to form layers. The coming season, a leading stalk may be left for a standard tree, the lower branches bent down for layers, secured in place by forked sticks, covered a few inches with earth, every eye or bud would give out a branch or tree equal to the original stalk, and a corresponding root ; and when wanted for removal or transplanting can be separated from the parent stock without injury.

I have this day examined a standard tree, M. Multicaulis, which was set in an exposed situation, and has stood the severity of the last three winters, as uninjured as an *elm*, *oak*, or any of the most hardy forest trees. It has attained about its greatest height, 8 feet, and is in full life to the extremity of the topmost shoot. The grass has grown about the roots, therefore, has not been much disturbed by hoeing, and in consequence acquired hard wood, the very result wanted by the cultivator of the Chinese mulberry. From the above experiment, may we not expect, that by setting the Morus Multicaulis for standard trees, and leave the earth about the roots undisturbed, that this tree will be so acclimated as to withstand our severest winters ? The experiment will undoubtedly be made and the writer would be much obliged to have all and any facts which shall come to the knowledge of his friends, respecting the culture of the Morus Multicaulis, communicated to him, that the public may have the benefit of the information.

Different forms of setting out the plants or roots will probably be adopted by different cultivators, adapted to the several objects in view. If the intention shall be only to multiply the plant, the rows may be 4 to 6 feet apart and the plants three feet apart in the rows—the space between the rows may be planted with potatoes without injury to the plants and without much loss of ground.

But if the intention should be to form standard trees, for feeding worms and also for multiplying layers, then it would be proper to have the plants set in rows about six or eight feet apart, and the same distance apart in the rows, and the space between the rows may be used for potatoes, turnips, cabbages, or other low vegetables, which would not require hoeing after the first or middle of August.—*Northampton Courier.*

WASHING SHEEP.

It may seem somewhat early in the day, to think or say anything upon this subject, when the hills and the mountains on our frontier look so much like January, and the clouds and the air look and feel more like November than lovely smiling May. But in all probability the time is not far distant when sheep must be sheared, and ought previously to be washed. By *washed*, we mean what the word was originally designed to mean—a thorough purification from all dirt and extraneous matter by *water*, not mere sopping in a mud puddle, and then a drying upon a sand bank. But to be serious. The State of Maine annually suffers a severe loss by neglect in washing the wool upon the sheep as it ought to be. Many seem to think that the more dirt they can sell the more gain. No such thing. Saying nothing of the iniquity of the thing, it is exceedingly injurious to the reputation of the wool-grower. The buyer looks narrowly at the quality and cleanliness of the fleece, and he makes up his mind accordingly. If it be clean he will give a fair price, if it be dirty he makes a deduction, and always enough to bring the seller a loss on the actual value of the wool.

We earnestly hope that our wool-growers will

see to this thing, and endeavor to have their fleeces in the finest state possible for the market. There seems to be an indication now, that the manufacturer is willing to give a fair price for fleece wool, and it is no more than just that the wool-growers should meet him in as fair a manner; with a good well washed article. By so doing the buyer will be the gainer, the seller will be the gainer, the State will be the gainer—all will be gainers.—*Maine Farmer.*

Rhode Island Silk.—A few months since, we gave some account of the operations of the Valentine Silk Company, in this city. They were at that time just getting their plantation of Mulberry trees under way, and had commenced operating some machinery by way of experiment. Since that time, they have manufactured a considerable quantity of rich and beautiful goods, and have been so fully satisfied with the result of their experiment, that they have fitted up, in the vicinity of the Steam Cotton Factory, in this city, a building, thirty feet by ninety, three stories high, with a basement, to be devoted hereafter to the manufacture of Silk. An engine of six horse power, is already up, and the machinery will be in operation, in the course of a week. Thus as Rhode Island led the way in the manufacture of Cotton, so does she lead in the manufacture of Silk—and we do not doubt that the latter enterprize will prove to be even more beneficial to New England, than the former has ever been.

The plantation of this Company, now contains about 30,000 trees, from four to five years old, and from six to eight feet high. One of the oldest and most eminent silk culturists, in the United States, on examining this plantation a few days since, expressed the opinion that, for the next five years, its products would average half a pound of silk to the tree. The silk when wound upon the spool, is worth five dollars per pound. At this estimate, the whole product of the plantation would amount to the incredible sum of $75,000 per year. But admitting—and it is admitted on all hands—that the trees for the next five years will average one-eighth of a pound each, the product of the plantation will amount to upwards of $18,000 per year.

It is to be hoped that extensive preparations will be made during the present season, to extend the growth, of what promises to become in a few years, the great staple of New England. It is a staple too, that will require as little protection against foreign competition, as the cotton of the South, and promises to relieve us more than any thing else, from the necessity of calling for the revival of the protecting policy, after the period of limitation shall expire.—*Providence Journal.*

Silk Culture.—Some of the most important discoveries in science have been the result of accident. Newton's mind was directed to inquire successfully into the principle of gravitation by the falling of a blighted apple upon his head, while reposing in the shade of a tree. Faust it is said, was led to the discovery of the art of printing by simply noticing the impression made upon a piece of parchment by some hard plate in his pocket. And the famous weighing scales, invented by Mr Thaddeus Fairbanks, of St. Johnsbury, and which, by some, are considered the greatest invention since the steamboat, are said to be the result of hasty cogitation in the workshop. We look at most of the important inventions of the age, and find them so simple in their first principles, that we almost involuntarily ask, why were not these things known before? Why have we been groping on for years in ignorance of principles so simple, and yet so vastly important in their practical application?

The successful culture of silk, in this country, and particularly in Vermont, may be regarded in the light of a recent discovery; and we are confident the time cannot be remote, when our farmers in Vermont will be wondering at themselves, that they should so long have deprived themselves of the rich rewards of an appropriate branch of profitable husbandry. We invite the attention of our farming readers in particular to the letter of Ambrose Spencer on the preceding page. The idea of manufacturing silk in poor houses strikes us as very important in relation to N. York. In this State, the manufacture must be carried on if at all, by all grades, for in respect to property, it may be said of us, that we are blest with a "glorious mediocrity."

The silk business must go ahead. Let every farmer who can try the experiment of raising the mulberry—wherever that flourishes, it seems to be conceded by all that the worm will thrive also. Try it.—*Vermont State Journal.*

Vaccination.—The discovery of vaccination, as a preventative of that scourge the small pox, was one of the greatest blessings ever conferred upon man. Its absolute efficiency is now established beyond doubt. The Report of the British Vaccine Institution goes strongly to this point; as it appears by it, that the deaths by small pox in London, the last year, were only 324; being 4000 at least less than the annual average of deaths by that disorder before vaccination was discovered, though the population of that city was then more than one third less than it is at present. There were vaccinated, the last year, at the institution, 11,571 poor persons; and 83,191 other persons out of the institution.—*Essex Register.*

MULBERRY TREE.

Directions for sowing the seed, and rearing the plants, of the White Mulberry Tree: prepared in pursuance of a resolution of the New York State Agricultural Society.

1. Prepare a good piece of garden soil, by digging and pulverizing it; lay it out in beds three or four feet broad, and rake it off smooth. Do this early in May. Sow from 12th May to the 1st June.

2. With a hoe, stick, or other instrument, proceed to make shallow drills across the bed thus prepared, from twelve to fifteen inches apart, and scatter the seed in the drills as thick as you would onion or parsnip seed; then cover half an inch with fine mould, and press it moderately down with a hoe; or when the first drill is sown and covered, place upon it a narrow strip of board and stand upon this board to sow the second drill, upon which, when sown, place the board in a like manner, and sow the third drill and proceed thus until the whole is completed. The pressure of the earth upon the seeds is to bring it in close contact with them, that they may be kept moist, and germinate readily. If the weather be dry, or the soil very light, an occasional watering at evening will be beneficial.

3. The only further care required, the first season, will be to keep the ground free from weeds and the soil moderately loose.

4. Strong plants of one year's growth may be transplanted in April into nursery rows; or the whole may be left to grow a second summer in the seed bed; the ground, as before, being kept from weeds, and occasionally stirred.

5. After two summer's growth, all the strong and healthy plants should be placed in nursery rows, which may be done thus; the good ground being prepared, as for a crop, draw a line and proceed to open a trench, of sufficient breadth and depth to admit the roots freely, leaving the side next the line straight and perpendicular. Having assorted the plants, and cut off the bruised, and shortened the top roots, a man proceeds to lay them in a trench, in their proper position, the heel of the plant towards the line, and at the distance of a foot apart: while another man with a spade or the planter with a gardener's trowel, throws in earth to hold them in their places. The trench is then to be filled, the plants set upright, and the earth trod about them. The other rows are planted in like manner, three feet apart; the ground to be kept clean during the season.

6. After standing two years in nursery, the plants will have acquired a sufficient size to plant out in the ground where they are to stand; and if intended to be grown in hedges, or as bushes, they may be taken earlier, even at two years old, from the seed bed. For hedges, plant the same as for nursery rows, at eighteen inches, the ground having been previously prepared by an ameliorating crop, as potatoes. The same precautions are necessary with mulberry as with other fruit trees, intended for standards, as to distance and planting. A broad and deep hole, partially filled with good surface mould, will always repay for extra labor. When intended to be cultivated as bushes, they may be planted thick and left untrimmed, so as to occupy the entire ground. The mulberry is generally grown in the latter way in India and some parts of Italy. It facilitates the gathering of the leaves, and affords an earlier product.

The mulberry grows well on almost any soil, and particularly in one which is stony. Upon poor, dry soils, it affords the best material for silk. An ounce of seed will give some thousand plants, and require a bed four feet broad, and forty to fifty feet long. J. Buel, *Cor. Sec.*

Albany, March 15, 1835.

The Silk Culture.—The culture of the mulberry tree, and the production of silk, appears at this time to be drawing the attention of the people of this state, and many have already made considerable progress in preparations necessary for its continued and successful pursuit. It is unquestionably worthy of their attention, and we believe the day is not far distant when silk is to become one of the staple productions of the Northern States. A fair experiment proves that the climate is favorable, and that it may, at little expense, be made to every family a safe, convenient and highly lucrative employment.

Many gentlemen in this vicinity have this spring arranged, and others are arranging their mulberry orchards, and the interest which it engages affords a safe assurance of the complete success of the undertaking.

Individuals introduced the business several years since—more perhaps for the curiosity of the thing than any hope of profit—but the imperfect experiments which have been thus tried, show that each thrifty tree at five years old will produce one dollar!—*N. H. Statesman.*

An Industrious Wife.—A married lady, of about twentyone years of age, in a town in this county, besides taking the whole care of her family, braided in as many successive days, (Sundays and one week of ill-health excepted) *one hundred palm leaf hats*, which she brought to this town, a few weeks since, and sold in a lot for forty dollars. The stock cost her six cents apiece, so that the nett gain of her labors has been thirtyfour dollars. Praise upon a married lady is, however, rather posthumous, for her fate is fixed; but if our *single damsels* will exert a like industry, the story of their deeds might not be told in vain.—*Ports. Jour.*

The two following articles are from a communication read before the New York Agricultural Society at its last meeting, by H. Hickcock, Esq.

DESTRUCTION OF WEEDS.

The spirits of turpentine I have found a subtle poison to all plants experimented upon, and among others, I have applied it to milkweed, burdock, and Canada thistle; a teaspoonful dropped on the stem will run down and destroy it to the ground, and if the root is not, on the first trial, destroyed, a repetition will be sufficient. This remedy may be of particular use where weeds start up from under stone walls or other inaccessible places.

Johnswort is regarded by many farmers as more noxious than the Canada thistle. It frequently usurps whole fields to the exclusion of all the valuable grasses. On some spots of land covered with this weed I spread gypsum, at the rate of three bushels an acre, and had the satisfaction to find that the spots were soon covered with a thick mat of white clover and other grasses; while the Johnswort was fast running out. It is quite possible that a less quantity of gypsum per acre might answer a similar purpose.

COMPOST.

There are two ways of making a compost, or mixture of earth with manure. Agreeably to one method, a mound is formed in the barn yard or near it, consisting of alternate beds of manure and earth: when the manure has fermented, the mass is turned over with the spade and partially mixed. After a renewal and subsidence of fermentation, the materials are again turned over with a spade and more thoroughly blended together. The compost is then drawn out and spread on the field.

The other way of mixing earth with manure, is much less laborious and expensive, and is thought to be, in many respects, more advantageous. The method is this. In the spring of the year, draw out all the manure, including straw, cornstalks, cobs and all other coarse materials fit for the purpose, into the field; spread it, and turn the whole under the soil, from six to twelve inches deep, with the plough. In order to have the work well done, one or more persons must follow the plough, and with a rake, or hoe or fork, place the coarse manure in the bottom of the furrow.

When the manure is not spread over the whole of the field, as in common cases, and the coarse materials cover a still less portion of it, one person is sufficient to follow the plough. But when a lot is entirely covered with coarse manure, two followers will be required, and even three if the business is not properly arranged. The following regulation will save the labor of one hand, by rendering unnecessary the passing and repassing of the rakers, which the method suggested by our first thoughts, would require. The first raker must set in after the plough, and continue his course; when the plough has performed one bout, the second raker begins his course. The first raker upon completing his round will stop: for he will find the furrow here filled with manure by his companion; but his stop will not be long, for the team will be close upon him, barely allowing him to step aside and permit it to pass; when he again sets in with his rake, or hoe or fork. In this way the business will be conducted with great regularity and to the best advantage.

When the manure has been thus buried under ground, it is usual to plant corn in the field, that plants may be present to partake of the food which the manure furnishes during its decomposition, and also, to keep the field constantly producing valuable crops. In the autumn after the corn is gathered, the soil is turned over with the plough, and with the assistance of the harrow, the decomposed manure and the soil are well mixed together. The compost is now perfected and the field is in a state of preparation for winter grain.

To this method it has been objected, that the gases, which first escape during the fermentation of manure, are poisonous to plants, and that their disengagement should be effected, in places where they could not exert their efforts injuriously. The results of several experiments which I have made, would appear to speak a different language from this.

I excavated a spot in my garden about a foot deep, and filled it half full with clean wheat straw; over this was thrown the soil which had been displaced, and melon seeds were planted. The fruit was the largest and best I had ever raised. Upon examination, I found that the straw had undergone a thorough decomposition.

Another spot in the garden I trenched, to the depth of two feet, and deposited in it manure from the horse stable six inches deep, and then filled the trench with the soil which had been thrown out. On this bed were sown parsnip seed; when the roots had attained the size of a goose quill, I dug some of them up. The roots had passed straight down to the manure, and at this depth, which was eighteen inches, they were of two thirds of their size at the surface; the roots when dug up for the table, were rather long than large, and they were excellent.

Chinese method of Cultivating the Mulberry.—The Chinese have various methods for cultivating the mulberry, all of which may be advantageously adopted in this country. One method is as follows:—In the spring, they sow the seed,

well prepared ground, in drills or by broad cast. The next year, when the plants are covered with foliage, they mow them down, in the same manner that farmers mow small bushes in their pastures, and feed the worms. These mowings are followed until the stock becomes so stinted and exhausted as to be unable to send forth shoots, when they sow another piece of ground for the ensuing year. This crop can be daily made, except after very dry weather, in different portions of the ground, and each plant will bear to be topped three times at least before the mounting of the silk worms.

This method has several important advantages over all other methods. The leaves are gathered with trifling labor and expense—the same area of ground will produce more foliage—it enables the culturist to commence the making of silk in the course of one year—tenants from year to year, as well as owners of the soil, can secure a yearly crop of silk, and the quantity of silk can be increased or diminished according to the demand of the market or of the manufacturers.

This method can, doubtless, be advantageously adopted in this country, subject, however, to such modifications as the variableness or vicissitudes of our climate require. Dr Pascalis, an eminent and experienced silk culturist, suggests the propriety of sowing in the latter part of the summer, and also to gather and dry carefully the foliage before using.—*Silk Culturist.*

SILK CULTURE.

The following in answer to a letter from Judge SPENCER, published on page 5 of our first number, presents valuable information and, together with the address to which this is a reponse, affords gratifying proof that our men of the first talents, and of the highest standing in the community are employing their influence and directing their mental powers to the due developement of a branch of economy, destined to become a copious source of national as well as of individual prosperity.

GENEVA, MAY 12, 1835.

To the Hon. Ambrose Spencer.

DEAR SIR—The honor you have done me by associating my name with yours, in a late letter on silk and the mulberry tree would be most fitly acknowledged by my rendering some useful service, if I were able, to the cause of public improvement. Having, however, nothing of my own to offer, I have taken a few days, since your letter, to gain information of the mulberry plantations which have sprung up in this neighborhood, in consequence of the report, which, as chairman of the committee on agriculture, you presented to Congress on this subject. And I desire to address to you publicly the result of this information, limited as it is, for several reasons; —that the public may be prepared for the great change in this branch of production which I verily believe is approaching; — that producers may feel confidence in having a staple market such as any *large* product will always command, though one *more limited*, may perish for the want of it; — that you personally, may see more of the fruit of your labors; — and generally, that those who labor for the public good may have another example of successful effort, and may know that their names are often blessed by thousand whom they never hear of.

Within a circle of twenty miles round this place, there are the means of entering upon the culture of silk almost immediately, and upon an extensive scale. One plantation of mulberry, if I am rightly informed, contains sixteen acres. There are very considerable nurseries of young trees for sale. Two gentlemen of this village have young plantations for use; and I have applications, since your letter, for information, for seeds, &c., on the mistaken idea that I know something about the matter. Finally, it may be useful to know that a Mr Loomis, of the "*Seneca Castle*," in this town, an early settler and a revolutionary soldier, has a noble avenue planted with white mulberry trees, nearly fifty years old, and which will probably give seed enough in the fall to supply any supposeable demand. If other parts of the country are awake to this subject in any corresponding degree, there seems no reason to doubt but we are on the point of beginning another great branch of production, and one which will lead to important changes in trade, manufacture and consumption.

You mention that silk has been cultivated in the eastern parts of Connecticut since the year 1760, and you adduce facts to show that there is no mystery in the *production*; and that now, so soon as American ingenuity was applied to the subject, all mystery has disappeared from the process of *reeling*, also. The great difficulty with every new branch of agricultural product, is an apprehension that there is something in it requiring peculiar art and skill, and therefore that in new hands it is peculiarly liable to failure. Such opinions are often encouraged by an air of quackery in books that teach the art. I desire, therefore, to add a word on these points.

I did suppose (but have not time to examine) that there were scraps of history which showed that the British Government, or perhaps plantation companies or proprietors, had introduced the culture of silk in this country earlier than the date you refer to. But this I know, that I have heard the whole process described by old people, when I was a child, and I think this recollection

of mine must go back nearly to the peace of 1783. The important point however is, that as they stated, the whole process—raising, reeling, dyeing and weaving—was so very easy, that a young woman could make herself a silk gown as easily as one of linen or flannel; (cotton was not then in domestic use,) and that the young women of that part of Connecticut where silk was raised, were often dressed in those times, in silks which were, throughout, of their own manufacture. In mentioning this to Mr Loomis, (to whom I have before referred,) he confirmed the fact from his own recollection, and added that whenever they made sewing silk, it was eagerly bought up in preference to any other. When now we consider that according to Mr D'Homergue, the product might be doubled in amount by skilful reeling, the real cheapness of the article becomes quite astonishing. What then shall we say to the additional fact, to which you have referred in your published papers, that almost all the work may be done by hands not capable of hard labor; by women, children, persons in weak health; by female and other feeble convicts in prison? In some papers which I published in 1830, on State Prisons, &c., the subject was referred to as means of employment at Sing Sing, and as having been suggested by an intelligent assistant keeper there.

I have today conversed with an intelligent neighbor, who has both lately and formerly seen the mulberry cultivated in hedges, slashed down and kept so low that the leaves may be plucked by persons standing on the ground. Another of my neighbors has a small nursery, consisting wholly of young trees produced from *cuttings*; and from those young trees he has again given me many hundred cuttings, which I have set with a view to a nursery of my own. Allow me to close this letter by stating summarily from known facts, (though not exactly from my personal experience) the great advantages of such hedges.

1. The young mulberry sends out side and bottom shoots very beautifully.

2. The prunings of those, will furnish cuttings or scions for hedges; and those hedges will furnish a considerable supply of leaves the next year and in three or four years be as high as a man can reach. The more they are topped down, the more side shoots.

3. I am assured that a thick set hedge of mulberry will effectually turn large *cattle*; though I doubt whether it will, when old, be thick enough at bottom to prevent small animals from passing through it.

4. By planting hedges six or eight feet apart and keeping them not more than six or seven feet high, I think it plain that the ground will produce vastly more leaves than could be got from large trees set orchard-wise.

5. In this way the rearing of a few worms may be begun the second year, and be most rapidly increased subsequently. I suppose, too, the leaves of these young branches must be the most juicy, and tender.

6. If the hedges, when they become old, are liable to any objections whatever, new ones can be made with vast ease between the old rows, which then may be rooted up.

I am, dear Sir, with great respect and friendship, yours, &c.

SAM. M. HOPKINS.

SILK WORMS.

The eggs kept open in a warm room will hatch themselves at about the time the mulberry tree shoots its leaves. If the young worms happen to come out too soon, they may be kept alive a few days upon lettuce. As soon as they begin to hatch apply to them the tender mulberry leaves. They will soon attach themselves to the leaves and begin to eat; when they have eaten or extracted the moisture from the first leaves fresh ones must be added; when the old leaves become thick, take off the top laying with the worms, and remove the others; do this eight or ten times during the first three weeks; then spread the worms on shelves, allowing about a square inch of space to each worm. Continue to feed them until they wind their balls, which will be from forty to sixty days. They are perfectly harmless. Prepare some dry bushes and spread over the worms or set them up near them when they begin to wind; after they have ceased winding, in two or three days, pick off the cocoons and strip off the loose tow—the balls must be reeled or baked in a few days to prevent their eating out. Bake them in an oven moderately heated; let the oven be as warm as it commonly is when bread is done baking, and let them be in the oven an hour, then taken out and dried.

Spiders, ants, mice, cats, fowls, &c. must be kept from the worms. Wet leaves must not be given them. When the worms are shedding their coats which they do four times they should not be disturbed by feeding. At other times they should have as much as they will eat. The sun should not shine on them.

The reeling is performed by putting the balls into hot water, gathering the fibres and running them off on the reel. J. H. COBB.

The Maine Farmer, says, Capt. John Haines of Readfield, has discovered that a little tar, laid on the backs of cattle in spots will kill or drive off all lice. If so, this is much better than unguentum, or other mercurial ointments, or tobacco juice, which will injure the cattle.

BRIGHTON MARKET,—MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1835.

Reported for the Daily Advertiser & Patriot.

At Market, 270 Beef Cattle, 15 pairs Working Oxen, 20 Cows and Calves, 70 Sheep, and 62 Swine.

PRICES.—*Beef Cattle*—Extra, a few at 41s; good 36s a 39 and 40s; fair to middling 30 and 33s and 34s 6d. About 30 head unsold.

Working Oxen—Sales were noticed at $60, 72, 80, 120, and $100.

Cows and Calves—Sales at $18, 26 50, 31, 35 and 50.

Sheep—Sales unknown.

Swine—7 for sows and 8 for barrows.

FANEUIL HALL VEGETABLE MARKET,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1835.

Asparagus 6 cents per bunch—Radishes 3 cents per bunch—Lettuce 3 cents per head—Greens from 25 to 50 cents per bushel—Rhubarb 8 cents per lb.—Onions 6¼ cents per bunch—Cucumbers from 12½ to 17 cents apiece.

PROSPECTUS.

Fessenden's Silk Manual, and Practical Farmer devoted to Agriculture, Rural Economy and the Culture of Silk. Published monthly at fifty cents per annum.

This is the title, and these the conditions of a work intended to embrace the subjects of AGRICULTURE and SILK CULTURE. It will contain, chiefly, articles on Practical Farming and Rural Economy, selected from the Weekly New England Farmer, and therefore intended for those who are not subscribers for that work.

We hope and believe that the culture of Silk, in some if not in all its branches, will eventually become the employment of a portion of the family of every farmer; and not only be made a source of considerable profit to the individuals engaged in this *fine art* but a great *national benefit*; not only save *millions* to the United States now sent out of the country for the *importation* of this useful as well as elegant article, but become a source of national income by its *exportations*. There is a certainty of a sale for this article, as the wants and the wishes of the wearers and consumers will increase with the copiousness and facilities of the supplies. The amount now consumed in the country may be in some degree estimated by reference to the value of the raw Silk now imported, which as it appears by official documents, exceeds TEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, annually.

In connexion with subjects relating to Agriculture the Practical Farmer will contain the experiments and opinions of cultivators engaged in the growing of Mulberry trees, as well as the manufacture of Silk; avoiding such theories and speculations as might probably mislead, or be misunderstood by those who are practically concerned in Silk manufacture. And we would respectfully solicit communications from those who are or may be engaged in silk culture, to enrich the pages of our SILK MANUAL.

Postmasters and others who may be disposed to assist us in obtaining subscribers, will please to retain 10 per cent of the money which they may receive for subscriptions; and the aid of all who are friendly to the objects of our periodical is respectfully solicited.

GEORGE C. BARRETT, *Publisher.*

FARM FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

An excellent Farm containing 70 acres, situated in Marlborough, Mass., with a house and barn thereon, for sale, or would be exchanged for property in the city of Boston. For terms and particulars inquire of G. C. BARRETT at this office, or N. B. PROCTOR, Esq. of said Marlborough. 6m.

SILK COCOONS WANTED.

The subscriber, encouraged by the late act of the Legislature to reel and throw American Silk, wishes to purchase at the Agricultural Warehouse in Boston, Silk Cocoons, and will pay $3 per bushel for the best, and in proportion for poorer ones. [m6] G. C. BARRETT.

FRESH WHITE MULBERRY SEED.

JUST received at the New England Seed Store, 51 & 52 North Market street,

A quantity of fresh and genuine White Mulberry-seed, from one of the greatest Mulberry Orchards in Connecticut, warranted new and good, directions accompanying each package.

June 14 1834. GEO. C. BARRETT.

GROUND PLASTER,

From the Lubec Manufacturing Co. in casks of 500 lb each, constantly on hand and for sale by GEO. CLARK CO. No. 9, T Wharf. april 8.

MORUS MULTICAULIS.

Trees of the above new variety of the Mulberry for sale by the subscriber at $40 per hundred, $5 per dozen, and 50 cts each, being about six feet high. Orders solicited.

Feb. 18. GEO. C. BARRETT.

TO NURSERYMEN.

The subscriber wishes to relinquish the charge of his extensive Nurseries to a tenant, or share it with a competent associate. A green house is contemplated as an appendage to the establishment.

Worcester, March 16, 1835. O. FISKE.

FLOWER SEEDS.

An extensive collection of splendid Annual, Biennial and Perennial Flower Seeds, comprising some new and choice varieties, for sale by GEO. C. BARRETT. april 22.

SILVER FIRS, &c.

WILLIAM MANN of Bangor, Me. will execute at short notice orders for Silver Firs, Evergreens, &c. well packed and in good order. – april 8.

TREES FOR SALE,

AT W. BUCKMINSTER'S Nursery, Framingham.—Apple trees, Cherry trees, Pear trees, Peach trees, Rock maple and Larch trees.

Also, Isabella Grape Vines, all of the first quality, at customary prices. march 4.

COMPLETE SET OF THE FARMER.

FOR sale at this office, one complete set of the New England Farmer, comprising twelve volumes, neatly and well bound, and perfect. Price $3 25 per volume, *cash*. Feb. 18.

4000 APPLE TREES

FOR sale by the subscriber, at Fresh Pond, in Cambridge, consisting of Baldwins, Russetts, Porters, Rivers, Siberian Crabs, and Blue Pearmains. The trees are four years from the bud and are probably the best in Massachusetts.

Cambridge, April 3. JONAS WYETH.

VALUABLE WORK ON AGRICULTURE.

This Day published by GEO. C. BARRETT, THE COMPLETE FARMER AND RURAL ECONOMIST. By T. G. FESSENDEN. Second edition, *revised and improved by the Author, with considerable additions.*

The first edition was published last season, and the sale was rapid beyond precedent for a work of this kind. The present improved and stereotyped impression has still higher recommendations to public patronage, and cannot fail to prove still more useful to the community of cultivators.

This work has met with decided and universal approbation from the most competent judges. Among the written and printed recommendatory notices are those of the Hon. JOHN LOWELL and Rev. HENRY COLMAN. The Editors of the New York Farmer, the New England Magazine, the Maine Farmer, Loudon's Gardener's Magazine, &c. have given favorable critiques of the Complete Farmer. We shall subjoin Mr Lowell's notice, and propose in some future number to publish those of the other gentlemen who have honored the work with their approbation.

"*Roxbury, April* 6, 1835.

"Having perused with attention the Complete Farmer and Rural Economist, by Thomas G. Fessenden, Esq. in its first edition, and having recently revised it at his request, preparatory to a second edition, I am of opinion that it is a valuable compendium and useful work. Those who know that the science of Agriculture is so extensive as to fill twelve quarto volumes in the celebrated French work of the Abbe Rozier, and a space not less in English works, will not expect in such an abridgement full details in any one branch of that extensive and varied art. But I know of no abridged work in the French or English languages which conveys more instruction in so small a compass than this work of Mr Fessenden.

m6 JOHN LOWELL."

PLEASANT AND VALUABLE RESIDENCE FOR SALE.

SITUATED in Dorchester on the Brushhill turnpike, two miles from Roxbury street, containing 16 acres of excellent land with a mansion house, farm house, two barns and outhouses thereon, having a garden of one acre containing valuable fruits &c. The situation is unrivalled, commanding a most extensive prospect of the harbor and of the country back.

The houses are in complete repair and the whole farm under a good state of cultivation, with a good orchard of excellent fruit. For terms and particulars inquire of Messrs LOT WHEELRIGHT & SON, 46 Central Wharf, GEORGE C. BARRETT at this office, or JOSIAH WILSON on the premises.

LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.

DR KING informs his friends and the public that he continues to prepare and affix to buildings his improved Lightning Conductors. They are approved by all practical and well informed Electricians, in affording superior protection against Lightning to the old form. Gentlemen in want of Lightning Conductors are invited to call at his rooms, No. 54 Cornhill, Boston, where they may be satisfied of the superior effects of his Rods, by illustration—where also may be had, Plate and Cylinder Electrical Machines, Galvanic Batteries and their apparatus—all warranted of the best workmanship and superior power. Prices reasonable, for cash or approved credit.

may 20.

DISHLEY SHEEP.

To be sold at AUCTION at BRIGHTON, on Monday June 22, at12 o'clock M.—

15 ewes and 2 ewe lambs,
4 bucks and 3 ram lambs.

The old ones were expressly procured for the subscriber by R. G. Newmarch, Esq. of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and were obtained from the flocks of Mr I. Bates and Mr Robert Curry celebrated breeders in Northumberland, E. They have been kept entirely separate from any other sheep, and warranted pure blood. ENOCH SILSBY,

june 3. 5t West Bradford, Ms.

SEED CHENANGO POTATOES.

500 bushels superior quality for planting, from Penobscot river, for sale by G. CURTIS, No. 104 Faeuil Hall Market.

may 20.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE

CORRECTED WITH GREAT CARE, WEEKLY.

			FROM	TO
APPLES,		barrel	3 50	5 00
BEANS, white,		bushel	1 62	2 50
BEEF, mess, (new)		barrel	13 00	13 50
Cargo, No. 1.		"	11 50	12 00
prime,		"	9 00	9 50
BEESWAX, (American)		pound	20	22
BUTTER inspected, No. 1,		"	16	10
CHEESE, new milk,		"	8	9
FEATHERS, northern, geese,		"	40	45
southern, geese,		"	35	39
FLAX, American,		"	10	11
FLAXSEED,		bushel	1 33	1 37
FLOUR, Genesee, cash		barrel	6 50	6 62
Baltimore, Howard street,		"		
Baltimore, wharf,		"	6 50	6 75
Alexandria,		"	6 37	6 50
GRAIN, Corn, northern yellow		bushel	93	95
southern yellow		"	87	88
white,		"	85	87
Rye, northern,		"	95	1 00
Barley,		"		
Oats, northern, (prime)		"	52	55
HAY, best English,		ton	19 50	21 00
eastern screwed,		"	15 00	18 00
hard pressed,		"	16 00	18 00
HONEY,		gallon	37	42
HOPS, 1st quality		pound	13	14
2d quality		"		
LARD, Boston, 1st sort,		"	11	12
southern, 1st sort,		"	9	10
LEATHER, slaughter, sole,		"	19	20
do. upper,		"	12	14
dry hide, sole,		"	16	18
do. upper,		"	18	20
Philadelphia, sole,		"	27	29
Baltimore, sole,		"	25	27
LIME, best sort,		cask	1 00	1 05
PORK, Mass. inspect. extra clear,		barrel	21 00	22 00
Navy, mess,		"	16 00	16 50
bone, middlings,		"		
SEEDS, Herd's Grass,		bushel	2 25	2 37
Red Top,		"	75	87
Red Clover, northern,		pound	8	9
White Dutch Honeysuckle,		"	25	03
SILK COCOONS, (American)		bushel	2 00	3 00
TALLOW, tried,		cwt.	7 50	8 00
WOOL, prime, or Saxony Fleeces,		pound	70	85
American, full blood, washed,		"	60	65
do. 3-4ths do.		"	55	60
do. 1-2 do.		"	45	50
do. 1-4 and common		"	40	45
Native washed		"	38	60
Northern pulled. Pulled superfine,		"	60	65
Northern pulled. 1st Lambs,		"	45	50
Northern pulled. 2d do.		"	30	33
Northern pulled. 3d do.		"	25	30
Northern pulled. 1st Spinning,		"	35	40

Southern pulled wool is generally 5 cts. less per lb.

PROVISION MARKET.

RETAIL PRICES.

HAMS, northern,	pound	12	13
southern,	"	7½	8
PORK, whole hogs,	"	6	7
POULTRY,	"	10	14
BUTTER, (tub)	"	20	22
lump	"	24	28
EGGS,	dozen	15	16
POTATOES,	bushel	50	55
CIDER,	barrel	3 00	3 50

ORDERS FOR PRINTING RECEIVED BY THE PUBLISHER.